

IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of knitting pile fabric by a weft knitting machine having including a compound needle whose slider is capable of advancing farther to a needle bed gap than a hook of a needle body, which the compound needle is being provided on at least one of opposed front and rear needle beds between which the needle bed gap lies, the method comprising:

-feeding a fastening yarn and a pile yarn to a knitting needle on a needle bed, opposed to a needle bed provided with the compound needle across the needle bed gap, the feeding including, -the method comprising:

-setting, when the pile yarn is fed to the knitting needle, setting the pile yarn also on a tongue of a slider of the compound needle,

-not feeding, when fastening yarn is fed to the knitting needle, not feeding the fastening yarn to the compound needle,

-forming stitches of the pile yarn and the fastening yarn so that only a pile stitch is held on the tongue of the slider of the compound needle; and

-forming a pile loop in a fabric being knitted by the knitting needle by retracting the slider of the compound needle from the needle bed gap and releasing the pile stitch from the tongue of the slider.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the front and rear needle beds is provided with a compound needle as a knitting needle, and

in the case of forming pile stitches at least in a part of a fabric being knitted on one needle bed, the pile stitches are formed using the tongue of the slider of the compound needle on another needle bed and the compound needle on the one needle bed while the hook is retracted from the needle bed gap and the slider of the compound needle of the other needle bed is advanced to the needle bed gap in a state where a fabric being knitted on the other needle bed is held on the hook of the compound needle on the other needle bed, and

in the case of forming the pile stitch at least in a part of a fabric being knitted on the other needle bed, the pile stitches are formed using the tongue of the slider of the compound needle on the one needle bed and the compound needle on the other needle bed while the hook is retracted from the needle bed gap and the slider of the compound needle on the one needle bed is advanced to the needle bed gap in a state where a fabric being knitted on the one needle bed is held on the hook of the compound needle on the one needle bed.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1—or 2, further comprising: in the case of forming pile stitches in the fabric being knitted on the needle bed provided with the knitting needle,

advancing the hook of the knitting needle and feeding to the hook of the knitting needle the fastening yarn for a new loop, in a state where an old loop formed of the fastening yarn and the pile yarn is held on the knitting needle;

retracting the hook of the knitting needle from the needle bed gap and pulling in the fastening yarn in a range where the old loop held on the knitting needle is not knocked over;

advancing the hook of the knitting needle to the needle bed and feeding the pile yarn to the hook of the knitting needle and the tongue of the slider of the compound needle on a needle bed opposed to the needle bed in a state where only the fastening yarn is held on the hook;

knocking over the old loop by retracting the hook of the knitting needle from the needle bed gap so that the fastening yarn and pile yarn of the new loop are pulled by the hook into the old loop held on the knitting needle; and

forming a pile loop by retracting the slider of the knitting needle from the needle bed gap and releasing the pile stitch set on the tongue of the slider.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the pile loop formed by releasing the pile stitch from the tongue of the slider is pressed by a loop presser into the needle bed gap.

5. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising in the case of forming pile stitches in the fabric being knitted on the needle bed provided with the knitting needle,

advancing the hook of the knitting needle and feeding to the hook of the knitting needle the fastening yarn for a new loop, in a state where an old loop formed of the fastening yarn and the pile yarn is held on the knitting needle;

retracting the hook of the knitting needle from the needle bed gap and pulling in the fastening yarn in a range where the old loop held on the knitting needle is not knocked over;

advancing the hook of the knitting needle to the needle bed and feeding the pile yarn to the hook of the knitting needle and the tongue of the slider of the compound needle on a needle bed opposed to the needle bed in a state where only the fastening yarn is held on the hook;

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knocking over the old loop by retracting the hook of the knitting needle from the needle bed gap so that the fastening yarn and pile yarn of the new loop are pulled by the hook into the old loop held on the knitting needle; and

forming a pile loop by retracting the slider of the knitting needle from the needle bed gap and releasing the pile stitch set on the tongue of the slider.

6. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the pile loop formed by releasing the pile stitch from the tongue of the slider is pressed by a loop presser into the needle bed gap.

7. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the pile loop formed by releasing the pile stitch from the tongue of the slider is pressed by a loop presser into the needle bed gap.

8. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the pile loop formed by releasing the pile stitch from the tongue of the slider is pressed by a loop presser into the needle bed gap.